

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
/104 W

-----128353 070432Z /13

O 070416Z SEP 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3229

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 03488

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNSC, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: CONVERSATION WITH MARK CHONA

1. SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND MCHENRY MET PM
SEPTEMBER 6 WITH ZAMBIAN PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR MARK CHONA
AND ZAMBIAN AMBASSADOR KONIE. IN THE CORDIAL CONVERSA-
TION WHICH ENSUED CHONA REITERATED THE FRONTLINE AND
SWAPO'S CONCERN OVER REGISTRATION, ASSERTING THAT A
FAIR REGISTRATION PROCESS IS ESSENTIAL FOR GENUINE
ELECTIONS. CHONA STATED THAT THE FRONTLINE WOULD CON-
TINUE TO PUSH WALDHEIM ON THIS ISSUE TO SEE "HOW FAR
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HE WOULD GO", BUT HE DID NOT INSIST ON RE-REGISTRATION
AND SEEMED TO ACCEPT THAT IT MIGHT BE TACTICALLY NECESS-
ARY TO LEAVE UNSPECIFIED THE CORRECTIVE STEPS WHICH
THE UN WOULD TAKE ON REGISTRATION. CHONA ALSO REITERATED
THE FRONTLINE AND SWAPO'S DESIRE FOR A WRITTEN CEASEFIRE
STATEMENT. REGARDING MONITORING OF SWAPO BASES IN
ZAMBIA AND ANGOLA, HE ASSURED US THAT "ONCE A SETTLE-

MENT HAS BEEN REACHED, THE FRONTLINE STATES WILL DO EVERYTHING TO SEE THAT NOTHING DISRUPTS THE SETTLEMENT". CHONA DID NOT SHARE OUR CONCERN FOR THE DAMAGING REPERCUSSIONS OF A SECURITY COUNCIL REFUSAL TO HEAR THE DTA, BUT SEEMED INTRIGUED BY A SUGGESTION THAT PERHAPS NO ONE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO SPEAK EXCEPT COUNCIL MEMBERS IN EXPLANATION OF VOTE. THE MEETING ENDED WITH CHONA STRESSING HOW ANXIOUS ZAMBIA IS TO "FINISH NAMIBIA".
END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND MCHENRY MET PM SEPTEMBER 6 WITH ZAMBIAN PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR MARK CHONA AND ZAMBIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE KONIE TO DISCUSS NAMIBIA. THE CORDIAL CONVERSATION CENTERED ON ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED PRIOR TO SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTION OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT.

3. REGISTRATION. CHONA REITERATED THAT THE FRONTLINE GENUINELY HAVE A PROBLEM ON REGISTRATION. THEIR PRIMARY CONCERNS ARE "PEACE, ORDER, AND THE IRREVERSIBILITY OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. WE WANT TO GUARANTEE THAT THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS WILL BE FREE AND FAIR." HE STRESSED THAT THE REGISTRATION PROCESS IS PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN ENSURING FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS. HE DID NOT SEE WHY SOUTH AFRICA WOULD BE OPPOSED TO RE-REGISTRATION "UNLESS THEY HAVE SOMETHING TO HIDE".
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AMBASSADOR MCHENRY AGREED THAT THE REGISTRATION PROCESS IS FUNDAMENTAL AND THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL SHOULD ADDRESS IT. HOW FULLY HE SHOULD ADDRESS IT, MCHENRY ADDED, IS THE QUESTION. PERHAPS, MCHENRY SUGGESTED, WALDHEIM COULD SAY THAT PROBLEMS EXIST WITH THE CURRENT REGISTRATION PROCESS; THAT HE WOULD SEE TO IT THAT REGISTRATION IS CONDUCTED TO HIS STANDARDS; OTHERWISE THE ELECTIONS WOULD NOT GO AHEAD. AMBASSADOR YOUNG EMPHASIZED THAT AHTISAARI HAD GRAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE ONGOING REGISTRATION, AND MCHENRY URGED THAT AHTISAARI NOT BE REQUIRED NOW TO DESCRIBE THE STEPS THAT HE WILL TAKE TO ENSURE A FAIR REGISTRATION. CHONA SEEMED TO ACCEPT THE TACTICAL REASONING FOR LEAVING UNSPECIFIED THE CORRECTIVE MEASURES WHICH THE UN MIGHT TAKE ON REGISTRATION. HE ADDED: "WE WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO SEE HOW FAR HE WILL GO."

4. SIZE OF THE UN FORCE. AMBASSADOR MCHENRY SUGGESTED THAT ONE OF THE THINGS WHICH WE ARE TRYING TO DO IS TO STRIP SOUTH AFRICA OF ITS ARGUMENT THAT THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE OBJECT TO THE PROPOSED SIZE OF THE UN FORCE. BOTH IS, OF COURSE, NOT SPEAKING OF SWAPO, AND THE NNF

SUPPORTS THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT. THE DTA IS CONSIDERING ENDORSING WALDHEIM'S REPORT, INCLUDING THE PROPOSED FORCE SIZE, BUT THEY HAVE TWO PRINCIPAL CONCERNS: (A) THAT THE COOPERATION OF ANGOLA AND ZAMBIA IN ENSURING OBSERVATION OF THE CEASEFIRE BE ASSURED; AND (B) THAT UN IMPARTIALITY IS ASSURED. CHONA REPLIED THAT THE FIVE AND THE UN CAN "BE ASSURED THAT ONCE A SETTLEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED, THE FRONTLINE STATES WILL DO EVERYTHING TO SEE THAT NOTHING DISRUPTS THE SETTLEMENT. WE KNOW WHERE SWAPO'S BASES ARE. ONCE WE'VE MADE A COMMITMENT TO GUARANTEE THAT SWAPO GUERRILLAS WILL NOT GO INTO NAMIBIA, WE WILL HONOR IT 101." REGARDING

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THE DAMAGE WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM A SECURITY COUNCIL REFUSAL TO HEAR THE DTA, CHONA DID NOT SHARE OUR CONCERN. HE REMARKED POINTEDLY ABOUT DTA: "WE HAVE WON A VICTORY FOR THEM WITHOUT THEIR PARTICIPATION. THEY SHOULD JUST GO BACK AND CAMPAIGN". NEVERTHELESS CHONA WISHED TO AVOID COUNCIL EMBARRASSMENT. AMBASSADORS YOUNG

AND MCHENRY SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS AN ARRANGEMENT COULD BE REACHED BY WHICH NO ONE WOULD SPEAK IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL EXCEPT FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS WHO WISHED TO EXPLAIN THEIR VOTES. WHILE BOTH CHONA AND KONIE SEEMED INTRIGUED BY THE IDEA, KONIE TERMED THE SUGGESTION "DIFFICULT". CHONA THEN URGED THAT THE MATTER BE SKIPPED OVER FOR NOW. CONFIDENTIAL

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5. CEASEFIRE STATEMENT. CHONA REITERATED THE CONCERN OF THE FRONTLINE AND SWAPO THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS SIGN A WRITTEN CEASEFIRE STATEMENT. AMBASSADOR MCHENRY ASSURED HIM THAT WE WERE WORKING ON THAT. MCHENRY ADDED THAT WHILE THE SOUTH AFRICANS ARE NOW ANXIOUS FOR SWAPO TO SIGN SUCH A STATEMENT, THEY FAIL TO SEE THE NEED TO SIGN ONE THEMSELVES WHEN THEY HAVE ALREADY SENT LETTERS TO WALDHEIM SAYING THAT THEY ACCEPT THE SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL AND THE CONCEPT OF A CEASEFIRE.

6. AMBASSADOR MCHENRY THEN PROVIDED CHONA CONFIDENTIALLY WITH A COPY OF THE DRAFT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON NAMIBIA (SEPTTEL). MCHENRY EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS SIMPLY AN INFORMAL DRAFT AND ASKED CHONA NOT TO SHOW IT TO ANYONE ELSE. CHONA REPLIED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD AND THAT HE WOULD STUDY IT. HE CONCLUDED BY EMPHASIZING THE STRENGTH OF ZAMBIA'S DESIRE TO "FINISH NAMIBIA". YOUNG

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